

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 12) of the Office Action Summary, please acknowledge the foreign priority claim and receipt of the Certified Copy of the Priority Document, through the PCT processing of this US National Phase Application. The Certified Copy of the Priority Document was filed in the PCT International Phase, and was then provided to the USPTO in the National Phase processing, as acknowledged in the Notice of Acceptance of Application (Form PCT/DO/EO/903) mailed by the USPTO on January 30, 2006.
- 2) In the acknowledgment copy of applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of March 14, 2005 enclosed with the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated "The PTO did not receive the following listed item(s) *AF". See the stamped text at the bottom of page 1 of the acknowledgment copy of the IDS of March 14, 2005 and the Form PTO-1449 with an asterisk * at reference AF, as enclosed with the Office Action. The reference cited as "AF" is the article "Fabrication of thick silicon dioxide layers using DRIE, oxidation and trench refill" by C. Zhang et al. Contrary to the Examiner's indication, a copy of that reference was filed with our Supplemental IDS of February 28, 2008 (which was filed by telefax and received by the USPTO on the same date). Thus, please clearly indicate that reference "AF" has been received and considered.

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- 3) According to the PCT procedures, the specification of this application was a direct literal translation of the foreign-language text of the corresponding PCT International Application. The specification has now been formally amended to better comply with US application format requirements (i.e. including section headings, and not including express references to particular claim numbers in the written description). The translated abstract has been deleted and replaced with a new abstract drafted in accordance with the US abstract requirements. The original translated PCT claims have been formally amended to provide a clarified format that avoids the use of "bullet dots" at the beginning of each paragraph of the independent claim 1. The above amendments are merely editorial and formal in nature, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.
- 4) Referring to the upper portion of page 2 of the Office Action, the objection to the abstract has been taken into account in the above amendment of the abstract. The new rewritten abstract complies with the US requirements. Please withdraw the objection to the abstract.
- 5) Referring to the middle of page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner's suggestion for improving the format of claim 1 has been adopted in the present claim amendment. Thus, please withdraw any objection to the claims in this regard.

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- 6) The indicated allowance of the application (except for formal matters) is appreciated. The allowable subject matter of the claims has been maintained, so that all claims should still stand allowed. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, the application should now be allowable.
- 7) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 9, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:
Transmittal Cover Sheet

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Walter F. Fasse 8/12/09
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: August 12, 2009

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